

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE CABINET</b>
<b>Date:</b>	26 April 2023
<b>Executive Member:</b>	Councillor Bill Fairfoull, Deputy Executive Leader (Children and Families)
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Paula Sumner, Assistant Director – Early Help and Partnerships
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>FAMILY HUBS AND START FOR LIFE PROGRAMME - UPDATES AND FURTHER COMMISSIONING INTENTIONS</b>
<b>Report Summary:</b>	<p>The report provides key updates on the delivery of the ongoing Family Hubs and Best Start for Life Programme and furthermore to seek approval on further commissioning intentions to meet the requirements of the programme framework.</p> <p>The Family Hub and Best Start for Life allocation from the Department for Education has been agreed for Tameside over 3 financial years.</p> <p>Allocated agreed overall budget - £3,325,216:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2022/23 - £831,712</li> <li>• 2023/24 - £1,354,644</li> <li>• 2024/25 - £1,138,860</li> </ul>
<b>Recommendations:</b>	<p>That Executive Cabinet be recommended to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Note the delivery plan approval from the Department of Education;</li> <li>(ii) Acknowledge and note progression made against the delivery plan;</li> <li>(iii) Agree the proposed commissioning intentions as outlined in section 3 of the report;</li> <li>(iv) Agree to receive a further report detailing progression and further spending plans in December 2023.</li> </ol>
<b>Corporate Plan:</b>	The Family Hubs programme aligns with the Corporate Plan priorities 1. Very Best Start in Life and Resilient Families and Supportive Networks to Grow our Young People, the Locality Plan as the approach intended supports: the neighbourhood model, the integration of health and social care and the development of new relationship between public services, citizens and communities.
<b>Policy Implications:</b>	The proposal aligns to the Council's key policies in supporting the most vulnerable families in our community. An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed (appendix A)
<b>Financial Implications: (Authorised by the statutory Section 151 Officer)</b>	This report details planned commissioning expenditure of £1,266,000. There is sufficient grant available to meet these commitments. Due to the timings of this report there is a possibility that some activities profiled for spend in 2022-23 will slip into future financial years. Officers have received assurances from the DfE that they will be permitted to use these funds in future years.

The use of 2 year fixed term contracts to recruit staff for this project limits the councils potential exposure to future displacement costs.

**Legal Implications:**  
**(Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)**

The ambitions and expectations of the Family Hubs and Best Start for Life Programme are clearly articulated in the main body of the report together with the expected benefits for the council and residents of Tameside. A condition for the funding was to submit a programme plan which has now been accepted by the DfE.

The project officers have worked closely with partners and the DfE to develop the programme and positive feedback has been received from the DfE.

Given the aspirations of the council the programme is challenging but is also considered achievable. This is important as the DfE will be reviewing the progress made to deliver the programme and monitoring the project in accordance with the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding already entered into by the council.

Under the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding the DfE can withhold future funding if the council fails to progress the plan as intended or the overall objectives of the programme are not being met. The project team is confident that through the robust project management and governance this situation should not arise.

Furthermore, both the Council and the DfE acknowledge that the programme plan is a living document which will develop over time and in collaboration with all partners and the DfE.

With regards to the capital spend, advice is continually sought from procurement to ensure that any commissioning is undertaken compliantly and represents best value for the project and the council.

As the work programme progresses further advice is and will be sought as and when required and both legal and financial services are part of the project's working group in order to provide assistance and assurance when required.

Importantly, an Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken with no negative implications arising. The project team have also undertaken consultation as and when required.

**Risk Management:**

The Council will work closely with commissioning and STAR procurement to manage any risks.

Family Hubs Steering Group has been established to identify, manage and mitigate risk, working closely with the DfE Advisor.

**Background Information:**

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Lorraine Hopkins, Head of Early Help and Early Years



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In May 2022, Tameside Council was one of seventy-five (75) Local Authorities identified to receive a share of the £301.75 million (a joint venture from the Department for Education (DfE) and Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) to implement the Family Hubs and Best Start for Life Programme in the years 2022-25.
- 1.2 Following approval at Executive Cabinet on 26 October 2022, Tameside Council submitted the sign up form to the DfE, which was formally accepted on 24 November 2022 that resulted in Tameside Council entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with the DfE.
- 1.3 Subsequently, following approval at Executive Cabinet on 5 December 2022, Tameside Council submitted the Delivery Plan to the DfE, outlining proposed spend and commissioning intentions to ensure we meet the key criteria of the programme and this was formally assessed as meeting the minimum threshold and accepted on 27 January 2023 by DfE. It was agreed April 2023, that a further update on revised commissioning intentions would be submitted for approval from Executive Cabinet
- 1.4 For the purpose of reference, Tameside Council's confirmed allocation aligned to each strand of the Programme is tabled as following (Table 1):

	Department for Education Funding Allocation					
		2022-23	2023-24		2024-25	
Strand	%		Lower	Upper	Lower	Upper
Family Hubs Programme	19.4%	161,408	263,064	274,062	221,160	231,442
Family Hubs Capital	4.9%	40,768	66,444	69,727	55,860	58,475
Parenting	16%	127,840	207,468	217,719	174,420	182,529
Home-Learning Environment	8%	71,552	116,616	113,840	98,040	102,598
Parent-Infant Relationship and Perinatal Mental Health	31%	259,584	423,072	443,976	355,680	372,216
Infant Feeding	17%	139,776	227,808	239,064	191,520	200,424
Publishing Start for Life Offer and Parent Carer Panels	3.7%	30,784	50,172	52,651	42,180	44,141
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>831,712</b>	<b>1,354,644</b>	<b>1,411,039</b>	<b>1,138,860</b>	<b>1,191,826</b>

Table 1 – Tameside Family Hub and Start for Life Funding Allocations

## 2. TAMESIDE'S – FAMILY HUBS AND START FOR LIFE PROGRAMME PROGRESS UPDATE

- 2.1 Tameside Council have undertaken consultation and engagement with staff, partners, and families, between October 2022 and January 2023. This consultation focussed on the branding to be used for Family Hubs physical buildings as well as the proposed sites that will house these services.
- 2.2 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been undertaken (see appendices 1). There were no negative implications identified through the EIA, however it remains vital to the programme

delivery that the Family Hubs ensure outreach and other relevant factors to reduce inequalities amongst underserved populations in borough.

- 2.3 The agreed model for the Tameside Family Hubs will see the rebranding of the four Children Centres to Family Hubs in each neighbourhood. Each Family Hub will have 'spoke sites' that will support delivery in each neighbourhood. This will support accessibility across the borough for families as well as utilise key buildings that families access currently. These will be launched in each area in April 2023 (see Table 2 below).

Area	Hub	Spokes
North	St Peters Children Centre <b>North Family Hub</b>	Oxford Park Tameside 1 & Ashton Library
East	Ridge Hill Children Centre <b>East Family Hub</b>	Stalybridge Civic Hall Dukinfield Library Mossley Children Centre
South	Hyde Flowery Children Centre <b>South Family Hub</b>	Hattersley Hub & Library Hyde Town Hall
West	Greenside Children Centre <b>West Family Hub</b>	Wellness Centre Denton Town Hall

*Table 2 – Tameside Family Hubs Identified*

- 2.4 Tameside Council has a well-established Family Hubs Steering Group that meets monthly to oversee the delivery and implementation of the Family Hubs in Tameside. This includes a model of accountability and responsibility in regards to finances, risk management and ensuring alignment to the programme guidance. The remit of this Group was described and agreed in the Executive Cabinet report dated the 26 October 2022.
- 2.5 The Tameside Family Hubs Programme Team and identified Lead Officers for each of the programme strands, work against a detailed project plan that sits underneath the Delivery Plan. At each of the Family Hubs Steering Group meetings, lead Officers provide a highlight report outlining progress against their specific strand of work.
- 2.6 A DfE Advisor has been identified for Tameside Council specifically linked to this programme, and there are monthly 'Keeping in Touch' meetings (KiT) in place to ensure delivery of the programme is on track. There are currently no concerns from the DfE.
- 2.7 Tameside Council was notified on the 25 November 2022, that they were successful in their application to have support from the Early Intervention Foundation (EIF) in the planning and evaluation of the Programme.
- 2.8 The EIF support facilitated a workshop in January 2023 and undertook a full self-assessment against the criteria. Following the workshop five further development days will be planned between March and July 2023.
- 2.9 The Family Hubs Programme Guidance stipulates that funding for publishing the Best Start for Life offer and parent-carer panels is dedicated to generate a 'Start for Life' offer that lays out the services and support available to families in the local area during the critical first 1,001 days. This funding is also to be used for the provision of feedback panels; parent-carer panels. In accordance with the Department for Education programme expectations, the delivery and publishing of the Best Start for Life offer will be met by 1 April 2023. This has been built upon the Tameside Early Years Grow Offer and we are currently on track to meet this requirement.
- 2.10 In relation to parent-carer panels, appropriate governance was approved in December 2022 to commission parent-carer panels through an existing provider, Action Together. Currently work is ongoing to seek approval for a direct award for which an exemption is being proposed. All intentions have been advised and guided by STAR Procurement.

### 3. COMMISSIONING INTENTIONS

#### **Commissioning Intentions For The Family Hubs**

3.1 The Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme Guidance set by the Department of Education, states the funding for Family Hubs and Capital is to develop localised services that are:

- More accessible – through clearly branded and communicated hub buildings, virtual offers and outreach.
- Better connected – family hubs drive progress on joining up professionals, services and providers (state, private, voluntary) – through co-location, data sharing, shared outcomes and governance. Moving from services organised for under-fives, to families with children of all ages, reduces fragmentation (even though an emphasis on early years and the ‘Start for Life’ offer will remain).
- Relationship-centred – practice in a family hub builds on family strengths and looks to improve family relationships to address underlying issues.

3.2 A sub group of relevant officers and partner representatives has been formed with regular meetings and positive progress. Given this, the Family Hub developments are making positive progress towards a timely meeting of the minimum expectations of the Department for Education programme guidance.

3.3 In order to continue working and delivering the minimum expectations of Programme Guidance commissioning intentions for the Family Hubs element are outlined in Table 3. These commissioning intentions have been guided by the Family Hub subgroup and all intentions have been advised and guided by STAR Procurement.

#### **Commissioning Intentions For The Home Learning Environments**

3.4 In keeping with programme guidance for Family Hubs, the funding for Early Language and Home Learning Environments (HLE) is allocated to the delivery of targeted, evidence-based interventions that train practitioners in supporting parents with home learning environments. This will support educational recovery and the school readiness of children who were babies during the COVID-19 pandemic.

3.5 The December 2022 Executive Cabinet approved the spending and commissioning intentions of this strand of work. An Early Language and Home Learning Environment subgroup of relevant officers and partner representatives has been formed with regular meetings and positive progress. Furthermore, monthly highlight reports and project plans are reviewed by the Family Hubs Steering Group.

3.6 In order to continue working and delivering the minimum expectations of Programme Guidance further commissioning intentions for the ‘home learning environments’ funding element are outlined in Table 3. All intentions have been advised and guided by STAR Procurement.

#### **Commissioning Intentions For Parenting Support**

3.7 As stipulated by Department for Education expectations, funding for parenting support is dedicated to providing a parenting offer that makes the transition to parenthood as smooth as possible and also stresses the importance of sensitive, responsible caregiving. This includes universal provision as well as more targeted programmes available to parents and carers with further needs.

3.8 A Parenting Support sub-group of relevant officers and partner representatives has been formed with regular meetings and positive progress. Furthermore, monthly highlight reports and project plans are reviewed by the Family Hubs Steering Group.

- 3.9 Funding has been used to invest in further parenting training, this has enabled a wider variety of partners within the community and voluntary sector to be trained to deliver our parenting programmes, particularly Solihull which is the Tameside approach to parenting. This has increased capacity to expand our delivery across the Borough and support a more sustained approach. In addition, two short videos have been produced that will both promote our parenting offer through information sharing and testimonials from families that have benefitted from attending.
- 3.10 In order to continue working and delivering the minimum expectations of Programme Guidance further commissioning intentions for the 'parenting support' funding element are outlined in Table 3. All intentions have been advised and guided by STAR Procurement.

### **Commissioning Intentions For Parent-Infant Relationships And Perinatal Mental Health Support**

- 3.11 The Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme Guidance set by the Department of Education, states the funding for parent–infant relationships and perinatal mental health support is for parents and carers with mild-moderate mental health needs and/or who would benefit from universal parent-infant support.
- 3.12 Since the report to Executive Cabinet in December 2022, where some of the funding and its commissioning intentions were approved, progression to meet the minimum expectations of Programme Guidance has developed well, with highlight reports produced to the Tameside Family Hubs Steering Group on a monthly basis.
- 3.13 In order to continue working and delivering the minimum expectations of Programme Guidance further commissioning intentions for the 'parent–infant relationships and perinatal mental health support' funding element are outlined in Table 3. These commissioning intentions have been guided by parent-infant relationships subgroup, a workshop that took place on 30 January 2023, and all intentions have been advised and guided by STAR Procurement.

### **Commissioning Intentions For Infant Feeding Support**

- 3.14 The Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme Guidance set by the Department for Education, states the funding for infant feeding support should be used to promote breastfeeding and support parents to meet their infant feeding goals.
- 3.15 Since the report to Executive Cabinet in December 2022, where some of the funding and its commissioning intentions were approved, progression to meet the minimum expectations of Programme Guidance has developed well, with highlight reports produced to the Tameside Family Hubs Steering Group on a monthly basis. This namely includes an increase (by 30) in the number of breast pumps available in the community loan scheme; launch of the #breastfeedvictories campaign, additional capacity in the Breastfeeding Peer Support Service, ready for additional delivery from April 2023 and evidence-based training to support local General Practices.
- 3.16 In order to continue working and delivering the minimum expectations of Programme Guidance, further commissioning intentions for the 'infant feeding support' funding element are outlined in Table 3. These commissioning intentions have been guided by the infant feeding subgroup and all intentions have been advised and guided by STAR Procurement.

**Table 3 – Commissioning Intentions**

**Family Hubs**

Item	Description	Amount			Comments
		Year 1 2022/2023	Year 2 2023/24	Year 3 2024/25	
Accessibility	Increase the capacity through current provider, Action Together to enable families to access community support.	15,000	30,000	30,000	We are seeking approval to complete a modification to an existing partnership agreement valued at £65,000 for Action Together to increase to the specified Family Hub amount  STAR Procurement have been consulted and have advised on this commissioning.
	Capital works to ensure Family Hubs are able to be accessed and can deliver the variety of support and services.  New signage to all locations	15,000  20,000	10,000	10,000	For works to support colocation of teams Purchase of large furniture and fittings to accommodate teams Repairs to doors to make safe areas/ wall partitions Door access controls for security Removal of excess materials  Approx. signage to all locations, awaiting quotes
Investment within the Early Help Module (EHM)	To work with the current provider Liquid Logic to develop the IT capability within the Early Help Module to enable partners to access the case management system.		15,000	15,000	The EHM is the case management system used within Early Help – This additional investment with our current provider Liquid Logic will allow for the required changes to enable access to the system by key partners. This is critical to increase the volume of early help assessments and for the monitoring of quality of assessments. The DfE programme stipulates the need for a single case management system for the partnership.
	Purchase computers/ tablets to assist community access to IT at each FH and set up.		10,000	10,000	To support communities to access online resources and support at each of the Family Hubs. Upgrade of current IT within each locality – wiring to ensure connectivity Purchase of Smart TVs for each Main Family Hub (rebranded Children Centres) Awaiting quotes

## Home Learning Environment

Item	Description	Amount			Comments
		Year 1 2022/2023	Year 2 2023/24	Year 3 2024/25	
To use the HomeStart Play, Learn and Grow model within Tameside Family Hubs to enhance and complement the HLE offer	The Play, Learn and Grow Programme will be a minimum of 8 courses run within a 12 month period, each course comprises of 8 x 60 minute sessions for parents and their children. This includes an initial assessment visit, where families discuss their children's strengths as well as the areas of development that they may be finding more challenging. This visit also gives the parents chance to reflect on how confident they feel supporting learning and development at home, and enables us to focus in on the areas that parents feel are most helpful to them.	22,000	22,000		<p>The funding will see a PLG Co-ordinator recruited at HomeStart HOST to deliver the programme.</p> <p>Part of this commissioning will be to train all existing Early Year's staff at Tameside Council so that this can become a sustainable model.</p> <p>The funding will be varied into the current HomeStart Peer Support Core Service contract. This does not exceed 50% of the contract variation. All the information is with STAR procurement awaiting approval. Once approved the monitoring of this will be added to the quarterly performance framework with the HomeStart Peer Support Core Service.</p>

## Parenting Support

Item	Description	Amount			Comments
		Year 1 2022/2023	Year 2 2023/24	Year 3 2024/25	
Solihull Parenting Training	To train 12 people – train the trainer model.	22,000			This will allow the Council to train additional staff and ensure that Solihull can continue to be the underpinning approach and to become a sustainable model moving forward.



**Parent–infant Relationships and Perinatal Mental Health Support**

Item	Description	Amount			Comments
		Year 1 2022/2023	Year 2 2023/24	Year 3 2024/25	
Parent–infant Relationships Peer Support Service	To develop and launch a Parent–infant Relationships Peer Support Service, which will provide antenatal classes in conjunction with Maternity Support Worker below, provide peer support groups (both Perinatal Peer Support Groups and Parent- Infant Relationship Support Groups) delivered out of the Family Hubs, as well as increase capacity to ensure delivery in encompassing for Fathers and Co-parents.		152,645	91,355	Funding shall be awarded to HomeStart HOST, via a waiver on the 'Integrated Parent Infant Mental Health Pathway' contract that is held between HomeStart and the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board. The Council will become co-commissioner through the funding.  STAR Procurement have been consulted and have advised on this commission.

<p>Early Attachment Service</p>	<p>To provider clinical expertise and leadership into the Start for Life Programme, by providing and expanding on supervision and reflection practice models to Services commissioned, and deliver a training package for staff within Family Hubs.</p> <p>The Service will deliver leadership on the content development and roll out of the 'Your Baby and You' and 'Your Toddler and You' Resource.</p> <p>The Service will deliver an Early Start postpartum programme for parents in each Family Hubs.</p>		<p>141,000</p>	<p>141,000</p>	<p>To award a direct contract to the Early Attachment Service, Pennine Care, as the only provider in the borough to provide this clinical leadership and delivery.</p> <p>STAR Procurement have been consulted and have advised on this commission.</p>
<p>Maternity Support Worker</p>	<p>To recruit a Maternity Support Worker at the Tameside and Glossop Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust, to work alongside the Specialist Parent Infant Mental Health Midwife to expand the current offer for families with mild to moderate needs, including the introduction of Parent–infant Relationships in antenatal classes.</p>		<p>28,000</p>	<p>28,000</p>	<p>Funding shall be awarded to the Tameside and Glossop Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust, via a contract variation on NHS Block Contract, where the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board is the Commissioner, and the Council co-commissioner.</p>

Community Grants Scheme	To launch a small Community Grants Scheme to enable grass root community groups to build on their provision to support expecting parents and new parents with their mental wellbeing, and relationship with their baby/ infant (mild to moderate need), and reduce stigma of mental health.	150,000			<p>To award a direct contract to Action Together for the full amount. Action Together will be awarded 10% of the funding for the administration, management and monitoring the Scheme, whilst the other 90% will be grants to various community groups as part of the Scheme.</p> <p>Action Together are the best placed organisation to manage the Scheme as they are the only infrastructure organisation for the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) sector in Tameside, and hold a kite mark for their quality of delivery with IVAR for grant schemes.</p> <p>STAR Procurement have been consulted and have advised on this commission.</p>
Your Toddler and You Animations	The universal resource 'Your Toddler and You' is being developed with the leadership of the Early Attachment Service. Similarly to the resource 'Your Baby and You', a series of video/animations will be required to support learning styles of families. The series of videos/animations will ensure the Council is providing a digital offer as outlined in the minimum expectations of the Programme Guidance.	36,000			<p>The Council will go out to the Market for a least 3 quotes to ensure value for money and quality of product.</p> <p>STAR Procurement have been consulted and have advised on this commission.</p>
Training	To refresh the evidence based training - Newborn	12,000			The funding will permit 25 places, training will take place in year 2 of delivery. Selection will be through consultation

	Behavioural Observations (NBO) and Neonatal Behavioural Assessment Scale (NBAS) for Health Visiting, Early Attachment Service and TMBC Children's Staff.				Brazelton Centre UK are the only provider of this training.
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### Infant Feeding Support

Item	Description	Amount			Comments
		Year 1 2022/2023	Year 2 2023/24	Year 3 2024/25	
Integrated Infant Feeding Team	To develop an Integrated Infant Feeding Team at the Tameside and Glossop Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust, enabling the leadership and capacity to work towards Baby Friendly Accreditation, reduce waiting times for tongue-tie and widening the antenatal offer.		120,000	120,000	Funding shall be awarded to the Tameside and Glossop Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust, via a contract variation on NHS Block Contract, where the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board is the Commissioner, and the Council co-commissioner.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 Tameside Council and partners have now had formal approval of the delivery plan form from the DfE and are now required to submit a self-assessment and data requirement form on the required template provided.
- 4.2 The DfE Delivery Plan has and continues to be developed in partnership with members of the Family Hubs Steering Group, and therefore it is important to acknowledge the detail in the plan is subject to change.
- 4.3 Tameside Council and its partners are on track to deliver the full expectations of the programme and expenditure within the timeframes required, and are working closely with the DfE Advisor, and the Early Intervention Foundation

#### **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 5.1 As outlined at the front of the report.